

II.—On the *Muscicapine* Genus *Chasiempis*.

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

(Plate I.)

AMONG some specimens of birds which the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution have kindly sent over for my examination are the two skins upon which Mr. Ridgway based his *Chasiempis sclateri* (Proc. U. S. N. Mus. 1881, p. 337). Having had the opportunity of comparing these skins with the examples of *Chasiempis* in the British Museum, I am enabled to offer a few remarks on this little-known type of the family Muscicapidæ.

Latham was the first author who noticed this peculiar Sandwich-Island form. In the second volume of his 'General Synopsis' (p. 334) is described the "Sandwich Flycatcher," from a specimen in the "collection of Sir Joseph Banks," as follows:—

"Length five inches and a half. Bill black, bristly at the base, where it is yellowish; forehead buff-coloured; over the eye a white line; the upper parts of the body brown; wing-coverts edged with pale rust-colour; greater quills brown; both of them tipped with dusky white; tail brown; all the feathers, except the two middle ones, tipped with white; the chin is pale, marked with dusky streaks; on each side of the neck a mixture of white; breast rust-colour; belly and vent yellowish white; legs black. Inhabits the *Sandwich Islands*."

A little lower down, Latham gives the subjoined description of this Spotted-winged Flycatcher, which is generally supposed to be the female of the same species:—

"Bill black; base of the under mandible yellow at the edges; the plumage on the upper parts of the body ferruginous brown; the head palest; on each of the wing-coverts, at the tip, is a round ferruginous white spot; the rump ferruginous; quills dusky; the underparts of the body pale reddish brown, changing to reddish white on the bottom of the belly; vent the same, but the feathers tipped with still

paler colour; tail brown; the outer feathers marked at the tip of the inner web with white; legs black. Supposed to inhabit the Sandwich Islands."

Upon the first of these descriptions Gmelin established his *Muscicapa sandwichensis*, and upon the second his *M. maculata*.

Beyond quoting these names, subsequent authors appeared to have done little with the present species until 1847, when Dr. Cabanis instituted his genus *Chasiempis* for *Muscicapa sandwichensis*, and pointed out the significance of this Sandwich-Island bird belonging to the true Muscicapidæ, and not to the Tyrannidæ.

Notwithstanding this warning, I inserted, in 1862, in my 'Catalogue of American Birds' a specimen of the female of *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, then in my collection, as a "*Cni-polegus*, sp. inc." I had purchased this skin of Verreaux, of Paris, labelled "Chili," and was quite unaware of what it really was (never having seen an example of *Chasiempis sandwichensis*) until I took it over to Berlin some years later, where Dr. Cabanis kindly determined it for me by comparison with the specimens of both sexes of this species in the Berlin Museum. This skin I subsequently presented to the British Museum*. It is the original of the accompanying figure (Plate I. fig. 2).

The next time this species came under my notice was when I was determining the birds of the voyage of the 'Challenger.' Amongst the specimens collected during the short sojourn of the 'Challenger' expedition in Hilo Bay, in Owhyhee, Hawaiian group, in August 1875, were two examples of *Chasiempis sandwichensis*. These were labelled as females, but are, I think, males of this species. They are now in the British Museum, and the figure (Plate I. fig. 1) has been taken from one of them.

Now the two specimens upon which Mr. Ridgway has based his *Chasiempis sclateri* (Proc. U. S. N. M. 1881,

* See Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iv. p. 232. The specimens at Berlin were obtained by the celebrated collector Deppe, in Oahu, as Dr. Cabanis kindly informs me.—P. L. S.



J. Smit lith

Hanhart imp.

CHASIEMPIS SANDWICHENSIS.

p. 337) agree completely with the specimen now figured (Plate I. fig. 2), which was formerly in my collection. If, therefore, I am correct in referring the last-named specimens to the female of *C. sandwichensis*, then *C. sclateri* = *C. sandwichensis* ♀. And should it prove eventually that these two forms are not male and female, but belong to two different species, a view which receives some support from the fact that the two 'Challenger' skins are marked as "female" by the collector (though I am strongly of opinion that this was an erroneous determination), yet even then the name "*sclateri*" will apparently have to yield to *maculata*, Gm.—the *Muscicapa maculata* of Gmelin having been, as it would seem, based on a female of this species.

It should be acknowledged that Mr. Ridgway appears in this case to have been rather misled by Mr. Sharpe, who in the 'British Museum Catalogue,' iv. p. 232, has omitted any description of the female of *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, although the only specimen then belonging to the Museum was of that sex, and has only given a description of the male from the 'Challenger' expedition. It is true that both sexes are introduced into the diagnoses (p. 231); but the characters set forth seem to be intended to separate the two sexes of *Ch. sandwichensis* from the corresponding sexes of *Ch. dimidiata*, and are not sufficient to separate the two sexes of *Ch. sandwichensis* from one another.

III.—On the Aftershaft in the Feathers of certain Birds.

By F. E. BEDDARD, M.A., F.Z.S., Prosector to the Zoological Society of London.

My attention has been directed to a recent number of the 'Actes de la Société Linnéenne de Bordeaux,' which contains part of a memoir by Dr. A. T. de Rochebrune upon the fauna of Senegambia*.

The paper in question deals with the birds of this region;

* "Faune de la Sénégambie, Oiseaux," par le Dr. A. T. de Rochebrune, Actes d. la Soc. Linn. de Bordeaux, sér. 4, t. viii. March 1884, p. 85.